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TOPIC Soviet Troops in St. Poelten and Mauer Oehling

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25X1 EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                      25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 18 to 24 August 1951

25X1 DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 14 September 1951

REFERENCES                     

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

REMARKS                     

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St. Poelten.

1. Motor vehicles entering Camp Spratzern near St. Poelten (O 49/W 38) on 23 and 24 August 1951 included van-like truck                      and trucks

                     all driven by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. All officers seen entering the camp wore tank insignia; in some cases, the MI also wore tank insignia. The barracks installation on Am Schiesstattring, which was blocked to civilian traffic by a road barrier, was entered by driving-school trucks                     

                     The instructors wore red-bordered black epaulets and the driver students black-bordered red epaulets. Other vehicles entering the billeting area included jeeps                      trucks                     

                     most of which were driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets although some of the drivers had black-bordered red epaulets. Small truck                      driven by a soldier with black-bordered red epaulets, sedans                      and jeep                      driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, were also seen entering the installation. Sedan                      and jeep                      both driven by soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets, were parked in front of the komendatura. The Viehofen Castle, which was fenced-in by barbed wire, was guarded by a sentry with red-bordered black epaulets. The approach roads were still blocked to civilian traffic. Trucks                      driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, were seen en route toward Viehofen, each carrying about 30 soldiers, who wore black-bordered red epaulets. (1)

2. An Austrian laborer who was engaged in restoration work at the Rainer Kaserne stated that the installation was

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occupied to capacity and that the recruits there were restricted to quarters. The Andreas Hoferstrasse was blocked from sight by a board wall on 20 August. The entrance to the former court building was inside the restricted area. Numerous trucks were parked at the barracks installations west of the Schiesstattring, in addition to AT guns and mortars of an undetermined caliber. However, no tanks were seen there. Soviet troops bivouacked in tents in the municipal forest west of the railroad line. (2) Until 1 a.m. during the nights of 17 and 18 August, the noise of troops at combat practice was heard from the tank training site in the village of Witzendorf on the west perimeter of St. Poelten.

Mauer Oehling.

3. On 18 August, 27 EM wearing black-bordered red epaulets drilled under the supervision of an officer in the former provincial insane asylum. Twelve more soldiers, wearing an undetermined service color, stood near an artillery piece which was obviously an AT gun. Twenty-seven trucks and five van-like trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] were parked at the installation. Trucks [redacted] left the billeting area, driven by soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets; each was occupied by 10 men who also wore black-bordered red epaulets. Truck [redacted] driven by a soldier with red-bordered black epaulets, was seen leaving the installation, loaded with ration boxes. Local residents stated that the Soviet units which moved to the Doellersheim troop training grounds for practice had returned to their quarters. (3)

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[redacted] Comments.

- (1) According to previous reports, it was believed that the 150th Tank Regt of the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div stationed at Camp Spratzern had left. The present report does not indicate whether the camp was reoccupied on 24 August 1951. All motor vehicles observed there belong to the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, including those seen at the barracks installation on Am Schiesstattring. Neither previous nor the present information furnishes a clear picture on the occupation of Viehofen Castle. [redacted]

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[redacted] a component of the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div is stationed there.

- (2) The barracks installations on Am Schiesstattring, including the Rainer Kaserne, cannot be seen from the outside and, therefore, no details on the actual occupation of these installations could be obtained.
- (3) Goepfritz residents stated that small units kept arriving and leaving during August 1951. [redacted]

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